

## IN APEX CANYON

By WILLIAM MACLEOD RAINE  
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After Huntly had got his sister aboard the Rocky Mountain Limited and comfortably settled in her section he looked about to see if by any chance there were any of his friends aboard to whom he might confide the care of his sister for the journey from Chicago to Denver. His eye fell on Maddox—big Jim Maddox of Cripple Creek and Seattle and Los Angeles, a mining argonaut who knew his west as a Boston girl does her Henry James. A moment later Maddox's big fist was squeezing the blood out of the clubman's limp hand.

"By thunder, Huntly, but I'm glad to see you. Let me see—last time I saw you was on the dump of the Moffe K. out in God's country. Member the day I drove you up Son-of-a-Gun Hill and sold you 5,000 shares in the James G. Blaine? We saw weather that day, young man. The blizzard sure did hit us on the way home. You on the way out there now?"

Huntly rescued a paralyzed hand before he ventured on explanations. "No. I'm seeing my sister started. She has not been well, and the doctors have offered a complete change. We're sending her to Denver. It was the original plan that I should go with her, but I received a telegram this morning that the senior partner of our firm has died suddenly, and it is imperative that I should leave for New York at once. Would it be asking too much of you to see that she doesn't get too lonesome and that she makes connections with my aunt at Denver?"

"Well, I guess not. That's what I'm here for—to help out my friends when they need me. But I'm not much of a lady's man. Miss Huntly will have to take in the rough."

Now, big hearted, breezy Jim Maddox was the very man to cheer a homesick girl who was traveling in search of health. He was as full of good spirits and wholesome energy as Fourth of July is of noise. He had in his varied past experiences enough back of him to beggar romance, and he had the gift of breezy narration as few men have it. To be sure, he didn't know anything about young college graduates from Bryn Mawr, but as soon as he had seen Miss Huntly he was more than willing to learn.

Helen Huntly accepted the introduction with outward reserve and with inward doubt. She was tired, and she did not want to have to smile and look pleasant to this big, awkward man for two whole days. But Maddox did not know of the existence of either the doubt or the reserve. If he had, it wouldn't have mattered. His big brown hand came out and buried the little white one, and somehow the girl found herself less lonely when she looked back to the honest, smiling blue-eyed face of this tanned stranger.

Before they had reached Rock Island she was congratulating herself on the good fortune that had made him her traveling companion. He was the most interesting man on her list, she decided.

More strange adventures had failed to his lot than to a dozen average men. He told his experiences quite simply and because she was interested in hearing them not at all because he was proud of them. He seemed to have gathered into his personality the freedom and the breadth of about a dozen of the mountain states. He wasn't coarse in the least, but he was as unconventional as a Kansas cyclone in action. He tramped unconsciously on her New England traditions with a vigor that would have shocked if it had not amused her. They simply did not exist for him; that was all.

The emotions of Jim Maddox were not a bit complex. When after two happy days he said goodbye at the Union depot in Denver, where Miss Huntly's aunt met her, he had already made up his mind to marry her or know the reason why. As he phrased it to himself:

"You've struck the best vein of ore you ever unearthed, Jim Maddox, and if you don't follow it up you're the biggest fool in Arapahoe county!"

He certainly followed it up, and if his mines at Cripple Creek required any great amount of personal attention during the next three weeks they must have suffered, for their owner openly and patently made it the business of his life to woo Miss Huntly. He organized picnics and excursions galore, and he always contrived to be the man who was paired off with her. Finally he induced a party of the elder Miss Huntly's choosing to go camping in the mountains near a new mine he was developing.

As to Miss Huntly, Jr., her feelings were as a house arrayed against itself. She found herself falling into greater liking than she cared to admit for this free and easy blond Huntly, and the nature of her liking did not approve itself to her judgment. She knew, of course, that he was in love with her, and the knowledge of it sent delightful thrills to her heart, but afterward she would scourge herself for it. The things that had formerly seemed to her vital she began to find herself appraising by his unconventional standards, and all the instincts of her life training fought against the concessions to the western spirit. Even while the charm of his easy breadth fascinated her, the Puritan and the social instincts of the girl rebelled at accepting them. She liked immensely the trick equality that existed between him and his workmen, but she knew that such a relation would not be possible for a minute in the east. And, after all, she told her

self, she belonged to the east, at which point in her judgment Jim Maddox would perhaps arrive and set her heart to hammering at his friendly audacities.

It was at a picnic up Apex canyon that the young mine owner declared himself. After luncheon he had taken her farther up the gulch to a curious rock formation and there, seated on a big rock in the shallow mountain stream, with the steep bluffs rising on each side of them, he had asked her to marry him!

"I'm not worthy of you by a thousand miles. I'm only a rough, self-made man with a sort of pick me up education. I don't suppose I'd know a Gainsborough from a Nattier if I saw them walking down the street together. I reckon I know the points of a case, and I can tell pay ore when I see it, but that happens to be my business. So far as I can make it out, there's just one point in my favor—there couldn't any man love you more than I do, dear. I'll have to rest my case on that. I'd make you happy if it were in me."

Miss Huntly leaned forward and put her chin in her hand. Her gray eyes were troubled and her forehead furrowed. She looked quite cool, though her heart thumped madly.

"I'm ashamed of myself. I always thought that a girl ought to know her own heart. I have no patience with myself," she said.

"Do you mean?"

"I mean that I don't know. Mr. Maddox. I like you more than any man I ever met and in a different way, but I'm not sure that."

From farther up the canyon there came a mighty roar. Maddox grew white beneath the tan. He gave the girl his hand and lifted her to her feet.

"Come, run for your life," he commanded hoarsely, and she, looking in his face, wondered at the sudden change.

They reached the bank and raced for the sides of the gorge that shut them in. Up the precipitous cliff they clambered, his arm round her waist, clinging to scrub brush or flailing goldenrod, as chance happened. In another instant the great wall of water leaped into sight round the bend in the gorge and tore hungrily at them. Maddox felt the almost irresistible suction, but hung desperately to a slender quaking aspen with one hand while the other still encircled the girl, clutched at a point of rocks. The water caught fiercely at them, tore their footing from under them, beat against them with a force hardly to be denied. But Maddox knew the struggle was for the life he most valued on earth, for if the current once swept them away they would surely be beaten to pieces on the rocks. "I can't hold on longer," she told him.

"You must," he bade her sternly. "Just another minute, girl."

How long that minute was he never knew, but at last the water from the cloudburst had spent its force and fallen away from them. Together they worked slowly up the cliff to a great abutting rock, and on this the girl sat, almost fainting with fatigue and excitement. There was still a great fear in her face. She held her hands out to Maddox.

"Don't let me go. I am afraid," she said. Then again, shivering, "I am afraid, Jim."

His eyes shone. "It's all right now, Helen. The danger is past. I'll stand by you, little woman."

He put his arm around her and kissed her hair. She still trembled, snuggled closer in his arms.

## Watering Plants.

Watering is an exacting labor, and yet half of it is usually unnecessary. The reasons why it is unnecessary are two—the soil is so shallowly prepared that the roots do not strike deep enough; we waste the moisture by allowing the soil to become hard, thereby setting up capillary connection with the atmosphere and letting the water escape.

See how moist the soil is in spring. Mulch it so that the moisture will not evaporate. Mulch it with a garden rake by keeping the soil loose and dry on top. This loose, dry soil is the mulch. There will be the moisture underneath. Save water rather than add it. Then when you do have to water the plants go at it as if you meant it. Do not dribble. Wet the soil clear through. Wet it at dusk or in cloudy weather. Before the hot sun strikes it renew your mulch or supply a mulch of fine litter. More plants are spoiled by sprinkling than by drought.

Bear in mind that watering is only a special practice; the general practice is to so fit and maintain the ground that the plants will not need watering. Country Life in America.

The Japanese Acrobat Toes.

The little Japanese acrobat, in his short robe of black embroidered with gold, dragons, walked slowly up the slanting wire cable to the very root of the circus tent. There he paused a moment, and then—swish, swish, swish—he slid smoothly and gracefully down the steep wire to the ground. Elevating his voice above the loud applause, an old circus man said: "That sliding trick has never been learned by a European. It's a trick that the Jape alone does. If you watched our little friend you noticed that he always kept the wire between his big toe and the second toe. When he slid, the wire was between his toes. That is the way the Japanese learn to walk the wire, but we English and Americans can't learn to walk in that way because our toes have not the same suppleness and strength. Our toes, confined for generations in unhygienic, tight, heavy leather boots, have no muscle and no mobility. To slide down a wire requires well developed toes first of all. We, therefore, can't match the Japs in this showy, telling and difficult feat."—Philadelphia Record.

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**THE MOST REFRESHING AND  
DELIGHTFUL PERFUME FOR THE  
HANDKERCHIEF, TOILET AND BATH.**

(Chancery A-186)  
SHERIFF'S SALE—In Chancery of New Jersey.  
Between Emile S. Bluhse, Jr., et al., com-  
plainants, and Edward J. Van Doren, et al., defendants.  
Pls. vs. for sale of mortgages.

By virtue of the above stated writ of fieri facias, I am directed to sell for public revenue, at the Court House in Newark, on Tuesday, the twenty-second day of September next, at two o'clock P. M., the following tracts of land, situated and bounded as follows:

First Tract—Beginning on the corner of John D. Maxwell's land, in Newark avenue, then running northwardly along Newark avenue, then turning eastwardly, thence said Maxwell's line eighty-six feet to Newark avenue, thence (1) northwardly along Henry Richards' thence (2) northeasterly along said Richards' line, eighty-six feet to Newark avenue, thence (3) northwardly along the beginning point running eastwardly, thence (4) along the line of said land of David and Joseph A. Davis, and thence (5) along the beginning point running eastwardly, thence (6) along the line of said John F. Maxwell, north sixty-six degrees and forty-five minutes east one hundred and thirty-one feet, thence (7) along the line of said John F. Maxwell, north sixty-six degrees and forty-five minutes east one hundred and thirty-one feet, thence (8) along the line of said John F. Maxwell, north sixty-six degrees and forty-five minutes east one hundred and thirty-one feet, thence (9) along the line of said John F. 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